addition, non-pi an budgetary support of Rs. 60 lakhs has also been released for payment of salaries and wages to the employees for two months beyond the obligation in the sanctioned scheme. The Government of west Bengal has also given the relief and concessions envisaged in the revival schemes.

Closing down of Six PSUs in West Bengal

1489. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently decided to close down six public sector undertakings based in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the names of the Undertakings;

(c) whether any serious efforts had been made to revive these undertakings before closing them down;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the number of workers likely to be affected and the steps proposed to be taken to provide them alternative employment?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (e) Government had decided to take action for closure of six unviable PSEs after considering the recommendations of the Expert Group about the univiability of the companies as PSEs and the fact that earlier efforts for revival through other options including privitisation/joint venture formation have not been successful. This includes 4 PSEs located in West Bengal namely Mining & Ailed Machinery corporaton (MAMC), Rehabilitation Industries corporation (RIC), Weighbird India Limited (WIL) and Bharat Process and Mechnical engineers limited (BPMEL). These PSEs were facing the possibility of winding up consequent to the preliminary/final view of BIFR/ Expert Agency. As a safety net, Voluntary Separation scheme (VSS) has been introduced extending the benefits of Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) which are substantially higher than the compensation available under the ID Act in the event of winding up/closure.

New Automobile Policy

1490. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are coming out with a New Automobile Policy;

(b) if so, when it is likely to be announced;